



sago pondweed

Potamogeton pectinatus

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants

Features

Sago pondweed is an aquatic, perennial herb with thick roots. Arranged alternately along the stem, the leaves are stiff, round, and hair like. They grow completely under the surface of the water and spread to resemble a fan. These submersed leaves appear bushy in water. Sago pondweed often is the dominant cover in Iowa marshes where open water is found.

Natural History

Sago pondweed grows in standing water in lakes, ponds, and streams. It flowers from June through September. Sago pondweed tolerates polluted conditions better than other pondweeds. It is common in most marshes. Pondweeds are probably the most important waterfowl food.

Habitats

Mississippi River; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs

Iowa Status

common; native

Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.
Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.